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## TSAC Pays Default Fee for 09-10

**T**he Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation is committed to helping students achieve their goal in obtaining a college education.

With the current economic situation, TSAC realizes the importance of making every dollar count. As a financial aid administrator, you have the task of seeking out avenues that will provide the best opportunities for your students. In continuing our efforts to help families meet their educational needs, TSAC announced that it would once again pay the entire one percent Federal Default Fee

for 2009-10 academic year.

The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 requires the collection and deposit equal to 1.0 percent on the principal amount of federal student loans to the Federal Student Loan Reserve Fund. Charging this fee to the borrowers means the borrower has less money to use for college expenses. Guarantors may pay all or a portion of this fee on behalf of the borrowers. TSAC remains focused on college access and affordability by choosing to pay this fee for another year.

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## Appreciative Farewell to Board Members



**T**he Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation would like to take an opportunity to recognize Mr. Dale Sims, former State Treasurer, and Mr. John Morgan, former State Comptroller, for their service on the TSAC Board of Directors.

Mr. Sims has served on the Board by virtue of his appointment as the State Treasurer since March 2004. Mr. Sims served as Treasurer of the Board, providing his vast knowledge of finance, budget, and administration.

Mr. Morgan has served on the Board since being elected to his position by the General Assembly in 1999 and has championed improved education and financial accountability on the Board and in his official capacity as Comptroller.

TSAC appreciates their dedication, service, and time, and wishes them well in their future endeavors.



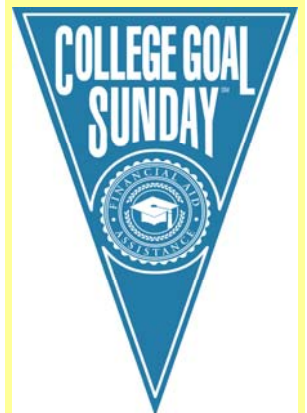
## 2009 College Goal Sunday Locations

ATHENS TN Tech Center	COLUMBIA Columbia State CC	GALLATIN Volunteer State CC	MCKENZIE TN Tech Center	NASHVILLE Tennessee State Univ. Avon Williams Watkins Coll. of A&D
BLOUNTVILLE Northeast State CC	COOKEVILLE Tennessee Tech Univ.	GREENEVILLE Tusculum College	MCMINNVILLE TN Tech Center	OAK RIDGE Roane State CC Oak Ridge Campus
BRISTOL National College	COVINGTON TN Tech Center	HARROGATE Lincoln Memorial Univ.	MEMPHIS Lemoyne Owen Coll. Southwest TN CC Macon Cove Campus	WAVERLY Nashville St. Tech CC Waverly Campus
CHATTANOOGA Chattanooga State CC	CRUMP TN Tech Center	JACKSON Lambuth University	TN Tech Center White Station High	WHITEVILLE TN Tech Center
CLARKSVILLE Austin Peay State Univ.	DECATURVILLE Riverside High	LYNCHBURG Motlow State CC	MILLIGAN Milligan College	
CLEVELAND Cleveland State CC	DYERSBURG Dyersburg State CC	KNOXVILLE Johnson Bible College Pellissippi State CC	MURFREESBORO Middle TN State Univ.	
CLIFTON Columbia State Clifton Campus	EVENSVILLE Rhea County High	LEBANON Cumberland University		

## NEW COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY WEBSITE ADDRESS: [www.TN.gov/collegegoalsunday](http://www.TN.gov/collegegoalsunday)

**V**olunteers are needed to help staff the College Goal Sunday events across the state on February 22, 2009. The feedback from many of our volunteers is very positive about their participation in College Goal Sunday. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year for College Goal Sunday in Tennessee and comments on the evaluation forms from the families are full of statements that show their appreciation of the program.

We have estimated that we need 400 plus volunteers to staff 35 sites and you could be just the person we need. We have a variety of roles that must be filled such as greeting the folks as they arrive all the way to serving as a financial aid expert answering questions one-on-one and many roles in between. Free long-sleeved t-shirts are provided for our volunteers. You can join the fun by registering at <http://www.tn.gov/CollegeGoalSunday>.



# Meet Cathy Jones: Account Executive

Cathy Jones' position as Account Executive has her working in a very unique partnership. Technically Cathy is employed by NGS based out of Florida. However, Cathy serves the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the Tennessee colleges and universities as an Account Executive. Many of you already know Cathy as her favorite part of her job is traveling to all the schools to meet with the financial aid staff. Cathy communicates that, "By working directly with each office, I get a better understanding of all the hard work they put into helping students attend college and earn a degree. It gives me ideas on how we can better help in that process."

Originally from Kalamazoo, MI, Cathy came to TSAC in December of 2005 via Cumberland University. She began working in the Academic Affairs office at Cumberland, but needed more of a challenge and interviewed in financial aid. She got the job and a definite challenge! She took advantage of the opportunity working at a college afforded and finished her B.B.A. and earned an M.B.A. at Cumberland.

Cathy enjoys reading and watching good mysteries. She is happy when there's a good "who-done-it" on TV. She also enjoys watching football and hockey live, rather than just on TV. She water and snow skis whenever the opportunity arises. She spends free time working in her flower gardens and hiking through the woods with her Dalmatian and her Weimaraner as she is an avid animal lover.



Cathy and her husband, Simon, have been married for 4 1/2 years and have a son, Michael. She is the youngest of ten children. She is open to attempting and learning new things. Whether it is food, sports, or a different driving route, she is willing to give it a try.

*Comments from Cathy:*  
Working for TSAC has provided me with experience to see the many ways the agency helps students achieve their dreams.

## TSAC Transfer Process Changes With 2009-10 Academic Year

As announced at the TASFAA Fall Conference, TSAC will require all students requesting a transfer to indicate the new institution as their first school choice on their revised ISIR beginning with the 2009-10 academic year. This will ensure that both the institution and TSAC will have the correct institution and updated information on file. Changes for the current academic year will continue using the current process.

The TSAA and TELS award letters will no longer provide a place for the student to indicate the transfer but will indicate in the letter that the student must make the change by selecting their new institution as their first choice on their revised ISIR. Additionally, the "Change of Institution Request Form" will no longer be available on TSAC's website after June 30th.

# Change in Processing of Adjustments

**B**ecause of a change to a new statewide accounting system, TSAC is now being required to process adjustments to students' payments differently. We will no longer be able to accept an offset of refunds or adjusted payment requests.

This means you will have to send any funds that are due to TSAC, and TSAC will process a payment adjustment request to the institution as separate transactions. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but with the implementation of the new accounting system, we will no longer be able to continue to process adjustments as an offset between the amounts owed to TSAC and the institution.

The process will start with any adjustments that you complete starting March 1st. Any adjustments that you have already processed will be submitted as requested.

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## TSAC Pays Default Fee for 2009-10 (continued)

Using its resources for financial literacy, default prevention, services, and fees, TSAC demonstrates its commitment to the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

"We wanted to help streamline the loan process for the schools and save borrowers millions of dollars," says Stephanie Aylor, Student Loan Program Administrator at TSAC. Recognizing how busy financial aid officers are, the fee waiver will be applied to all schools regardless of cohort rate, retention rates, level of participation in FFELP, Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford, Grad PLUS, and Parent PLUS loans. TSAC will also pay the fee for any lender the borrower selects.

By continuing to pay this waiver through June 30, 2010, TSAC will help borrowers save over \$7 million dollars for the next school year. TSAC is honored to be a guarantor and will continue to look for ways to assist students in achieving their educational goals.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

- 11 Walters State Community College Fair
- 11 Volunteer State Community College Fair
- 22 College Goal Sunday (see page 2)**
- 27 Bradley County High School College Fair

### March

- 4 Northeast State Community College Fair
- 6 Hancock County High/Middle School Fair

- 16 Southwest TN Comm. Coll. Fair—Macon Cove
- 17 Southwest TN Comm. Coll. Fair—S.E. Center
- 18 Southwest TN Comm. Coll. Fair—Union Ave.
- 19 Dyersburg State Community College Fair
- 19 Chattanooga State Community College Fair
- 31 Nashville State Community College Fair

### April

- 1 Cleveland State Community College Fair



# TSAC Legislative Update

**T**he legislature convened on January 6 for the first session of the 106th General Assembly. After three days of organizational sessions, the legislature recessed until February 9 when Governor Bredesen is scheduled to present the State budget proposal.

To date, the following bills pertain to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) program or other matters relevant to student financial aid:

- HB6 This bill proposes the “TEL (Tennessee Education Lottery) Financial Assistance Grant.” As introduced, the bill would require a student to meet all non-academic requirements for the TELS scholarship and be eligible for a PELL grant, demonstrating financial need, to receive the grant.
- HB43 This bill proposes for the ASPIRE award, a supplement to the HOPE Award for those students who demonstrate a financial need, to include a work-study program, requiring students to work for one-half of the award.
- HB44 This bill establishes the provisions of the ASPIRE work-study program proposed in HB43, whereby the TSAC will institute a work-study program for the tutoring and mentoring of public school students to improve academic performance.
- HB58 As introduced, HB58 would eliminate academic requirements and permit Tennessee HOPE scholarship recipients to retain eligibility by maintaining good standing at the eligible postsecondary institution in which the students are enrolled. This bill also changes initial eligibility requirements to conform to the change in the continuing eligibility requirement.
- HB86 This bill proposes to broaden eligibility for the HOPE scholarship by removing the requirement that a military parent's home-of-record or residence is Tennessee if a student qualifies to be classified as an in-state student and meets other specified requirements.

To view the full details of a bill, you may do so by going to the Tennessee General Assembly website at <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us> and click on the Legislation link. Instructions for viewing general information for the bill and the bill itself are provided to assist you.

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## State Budget Cuts Impact TSAC

**M**uch of the news lately has focused on pending state budget cuts for fiscal year 2009-10. Like the rest of state government, including higher education, TSAC has submitted plans for reductions to the Department of Finance and Administration. While it is still unclear how much of a reduction will be necessary, the proposed reductions are administrative in nature and do not impact financial aid program funding. TSAC remains hopeful that further cuts will not be necessary and will do everything possible to avoid cutting programs that would impact students. More updates will follow once the Governor submits his budget sometime in February.